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Three to be inducted into Paw Paw Hall Of Fame

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - This year's inductees to the Paw Paw Hall of Fame include Eric Laskovy, Perry Richardson, and Michael Roy. The trio will be inducted in ceremonies to be held Feb. 14, at ap-proximately 7:15 p.m. at the Paw Paw High School gymnasium.

Laskovy, a 1993 PPHS graduate, excelled in football, baseball and basketball. In football, he was named All-State First Team his senior year. He was also named KVA (Kalamazoo Valley Association) First Team his senior year. As a junior, he was KVA Honorable Mention.

He holds school football records for passes caught in a game (16), passes caught season (72), passes caught career (110) touchdown passes caught season (10), and yards receiving single game (169).

As a member of the high school baseball team, he was named KVA First Team in his junior and senior years. In his senior year, he led the team in batting avg. .353, home runs (6) and six wins pitching.

In basketball, Laskovy was named KVA First Team in his junior and senior years.

In his collegiate playing career, Laskovy was a member of the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Cougars, Following KVCC, he transferred to Div. 1 University of Arkansas - Little Rock, where he was a two-year starter on the team.

Laskovy graduated from the University of Arkansas – Little Rock, with a bachelor's degree in health science. In 2001, he earned a master's degree in physical education from Western Mich-igan University (WMU). From 2006 to 2012, he worked as an associate scout with the Cincinnati Reds

Laskovy is entering his 25th year of involvement with Kellogg Community College's base-ball program. He is in his 18th year as head coach at KCC. Over the course of his tenue, the Bruins won several championships, including 13 MCCAA Conference tiles – (2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, and seven regional championships resulting in trips to the NJCAA Division II World Series, in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2019, 2021 and 2024. The Bruins finished National Runner-Up in 2007.

Laskovy has notched MCCAA Coach of the Year 12 times, in 2007, 2008 (Co.), 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 (Co.), 2023 (Co.) and 2024, and holds a 634-291 overall rec-ord.

Laskovy and his wife, Shannon, and daughter, Kellin, reside in Battle Creek.

Richardson, a 1970 PPHS graduate, was a track standout, scoring 100 points in a season. During Richardson's four years as a runner, he amassed over 700 points.

In his freshman, sophomore, and junior years, Richardson ran the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash and was on the 880 relay and the mile relay. In his senior year, Coach Wayne Falan saw potential for Richardson to run the 440-yard dash. Richardson was undefeated in the 440 winning every race, conference, non-conference and several invitational meets throughout the season.

In the 1970 conference track meet, Richardson won the 100-yard dash and the 220-yard dash. He also anchored the 880 relay and mile relay with Paw Paw winning both events. That day saw Richardson take four first place finishes, while Paw Paw went on to capture the conference title.

In the regional track meet that followed, Richardson won the 440 event.

Following the conference and regional meets, Richardson won the state championship in the 440.

At one point, Richardson held the school record outright in four events. He also tied the record for 100 and 220 dashes. These records were never broken but the records were replaced when the state of Michigan High Schools converted to meters rather than yards.

Roy was a PPHS football standout from 1984 to 1987, with one year on the freshman team and three years on the varsity. He also played basketball for four years and a single season of baseball during his freshman year in 1985.

In 1986 as a junior on the football team, he was team captain. He also led the team in tackles, sacks, and tackles for loss. During his senior year, he again served as team captain, Honorable Mention All-State, and led the team in tackles, sacks, and tackles for loss.

At one point, he was the school's all-time leader in tackles (games, season, and career), all-time leader in sacks (games, season and career) and tackles for loss (games, season and ca-reer).

He also played basketball during his freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years, and a one-year stint in baseball.

Roy was a two-year member of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas football team in 1989 and 1990.

He is currently serving his 26th year as a high school athletic administrator in Michigan. He has been involved with the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAA), the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAA) and the National Federa-tion of High Schools (NFHS) throughout his career.

In 2009, he was named the MIAAA Athletic Director of the Year, and three years later, 2012, the MIAA State Athletic Director of the Year.

He was the first Michigan athletic director to achieve all three levels of certification offered by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (registered athletic administrator, certified athletic administrator, and certified master athletic administrator).

Lawton council continues discussion on special police millage or assessment

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LAWTON – At the Jan. 28, Lawton Village Council meeting, council members continued discussion on whether to pursue a special police millage or police special assessment.

Lawton Village Council President Josh Appleby brought up discussion about a special police millage or police special assessment. He said that as a village in the past year, it has become something that is needed to keep police on staff. Appleby said the village's police department is one of the lowest paid police departments in Van Buren County, and the county is one of the lowest in the state.

President Appleby said it is difficult for communities to maintain police officers due to the current environment. Appleby stated the village is very fortunate to have a few officers who have lived and worked in Lawton long-term, as well as a "great police chief" (Greg Cordes) who resides in the area. Appleby explained the Headlee Act and how it impacts the village, saying that this year alone, inflation is having a major effect on the village. According to Appleby, the village has less money today than it did years ago.

President Appleby said village residents provide $490,000 to the general fund, while state revenue sharing brings in approximately $353,000 per year. According to Appleby, Welch's does not pay personal property taxes. The state now reimburses the village for that. However, he did not know how long that would continue as the state does not always support small communities very well.

President Appleby said the police department costs $545,000 per year for three full time officers, two part time officers, the school crossing guards, which the village is required by law to finance, and a police chief. "That leaves us $327,000 per year for everything else within the village," said Appleby. The village is currently running a skeleton crew, according to Appleby, having already eliminated two Department of Public Works (DPW) and two full time police officer positions in the past few years. Appleby said Village Manager Todd Hackenberg is currently doing both his job, as well as the Department of Public Works superintendent position. "So, we really can't cut anywhere else," said Appleby.

According to Appleby, village-owned buildings and parking lots are deteriorating, and lack financial support for upkeep. He also said village equipment is aging out, and the cost of a new leaf vacuum is $400,000. Appleby said Kids Dream is also in need of upkeep. Appleby noted the village is having trouble retaining businesses in the community because of a lack of people in the village to support them." Appleby said the village does not have the correct equipment to pump storm sewers.

Appleby said he has fielded questions from individuals asking about spending on village roads and Reid's Corner. He said the reality is the village saved for the streetscape project for over 15 years, and the remainder for both projects were made possible in majority by grant dollars sought out by the village.

"Unfunded state mandates have come down on our community for updating, which we do not have the budget for," said Appleby. He said the village spent $70,000 "doing not a great job for the leaves, and they spent hours and hours working weekends and overtime to try to keep up on this, but without the correct staffing and equipment, this is an uphill battle."

The village takes in $275,000 to work on roads, which does not go far, since mile of pavement costs approximately $1 million. The village is $38,900 into our reserve for the fiscal year, assuming nothing bad happens for the remainder of the year," said Appleby. Sewer and water are enterprise funds, which means the funds that come in for this can only go to sewer and water, they cannot go to fund the deficit areas in the general fund, according to Appleby.

President Appleby said the police department is fully funded by taxpayers who live within the village proper through the general fund, and no one else, though both the Lawton Community Schools and people outside the village receive services. Appleby said that if the village does not fund the police department, "we will not have police with all the staffing shortages everywhere.

The village is currently looking at about three mills, which would raise about $130,000 per year, for the police department, according to Appleby. "But it doesn't even get us where we need to be with the department, it will get us where we are plus maybe a little bit," said Appleby.

President Appleby said the needed police department funding also ties into the ballfield calculation. "It isn't that we don't want baseball. The village owns one piece of buildable property, and it is 27 acres on the ball fields. The village needs housing and more people living here to help with the tax base desperately, as it is currently not sustainable."

President Appleby said as a council, they do not want to get rid of baseball, stating the council would be happy if something could be found for them, however, they must do what they can to keep the village afloat. Appleby said for the police funding, there are two routes the village can go. "The village can pass a special assessment which doesn't require a vote or place it on the ballot and allow people to vote on it. Appleby stated the reason the council is looking at a special assessment is it may be a lot faster. The council is attempting to be transparent and communicate what is going on."

Appleby then opened the floor for discussion. Village Manager Hackenberg said he would recommend doing a special assessment, as it would guarantee the village would receive the funds needed, and sooner.

Trustee Nicole Smith said it depends on when it goes on the ballot. "If people are uninformed then only the people who know about it go and vote on it if the village goes the route of a special election, which could be problematic," said Smith. Village Manager Hackenberg said that the village is at its maximum levy for mills on general fund so it cannot just add mills without a special mill or special assessment. Hackenberg said the village could do a special assessment until the 2026 vote. Trustee Smith asked what a proposed timeframe could be to enact this. "We really need to have a powerful presence of messaging this without a vote," said Smith. Village President Appleby said if the police department does not receive the funding, reductions would have to be made forward, without going into a deficit. Appleby said the village has looked at contracting several different ways, and having its own police department "is the ideal situation."

During Citizen Comments, Dessirae Sweet, president of Lawton Youth Softball and Baseball League, told the village council she wanted to represent the board to go over the council's comments from the Dec. 10, 2024, meeting. Sweet said that she would like to advocate for the fields and the young athletes.

Sweet said the board would like to make sure there are still safe and productive activities for the town's youth. According to Sweet, there are approximately 200 youth enrolled this year in the program.

She said the board has priced out the cost to relocate the field and are currently finding that it would cost $750,000 to $1.5 million. Sweet asked the village council if all decisions to sell the property or take over the property would be discussed with the board. She also requested a 12-month notice prior to the Lawton Village Council selling the field. Sweet told the village council that at its next meeting, Feb. 11, several youth softball and baseball individuals would like to address the village council about the Little League fields.

Sweet also extended an invitation to the village council to attend the opening day ceremony on April 26.

Lawton Village Council President Appleby said there would be time at the Feb. 11 village council meeting to bring the issue up for further discussion. President Appleby said the village council has investigated alternatives as well as other opportunities for the Lawton Youth Baseball and Softball Program and are more than happy to help investigate options and grants.

President Appleby assured Sweet that no decisions have been made will impact the 2025 season.

Joe Magers, owner of Longship Brewing Company, Lawton, told the council that the fields are sustained by the community, and he believes that the fields are crucial to Lawton's Identity. Magers said people who come to the games, support the town's businesses, and the businesses in turn support the program.

In another area, President Appleby brought a village rental inspection ordinance to the floor for discussion. Village Manager Todd Hackenberg introduced Scott Beltz, of Medallion Management Company. The company does property management throughout the state. Beltz provides professional insight into rental inspection ordinances without bias as he has no properties located within the village limits.

Village President Appleby said the village council is looking into this to protect renters as well as landlords from issues. Appleby also said that Lawton is one of the only communities in the area that does not have an ordinance like this in place already. Appleby also said that the village council was hoping not to create additional hoops for someone who was previously inspected if they are up to speed.

Paw Paw cemetery damaged by vandals

The Paw Paw Police Department took report Jan. 31 of destruction that had occurred at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Paw Paw. Paw Paw Chief of Police Eric Rottman said it is unknown when the damage occurred and there are currently no suspects. "It is unfortunate that this damage took place. It is not the first time over the years that the sanctity of the cemetery and the resting place for people's loved ones have been disrespected, and damage has been caused," said Police Chief Rottman. Anyone with information as to the person or persons who caused the damage are asked to contact the Paw Paw Police Department at (269) 657-5501.

Photos curtesy/Paw Paw Police Department

Multiple stolen trailers recovered in Decatur Township

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that on Jan. 26, at approximately 8:45 a.m., sheriff's deputies, along with Decatur and Lawton police departments, Michigan State Polce and the Van Buren Criminal Investigative Division, responded to the 37000 block of 82nd Avenue in Decatur Township, to assist Benton Township Police Department in attempting to locate a stolen trailer from their jurisdiction. Deputies arrived on scene, and with the assistance of Decatur and Lawton police departments, were able to locate the trailer in question. Upon further investigation, numerous other trailers were found on scene and a vast amount of construction equipment. The owner of the property was unable to provide proof of ownership of the trailers and items. Several of the trailers also had missing, or obliterated serial/vin numbers. Multiple trailers along with a large amount of stolen construction equipment were seized by the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office pending identification of ownership. These items were towed to a secured towing facility where the sheriff's office was assisted by the Michigan State Police in identifying the trailers and confirming they were stolen from various locations including Benton Township and Berrien County. This case is still under investigation and charges will be sought later. The total value is not known as of this time on the stolen items, but one trailer was loaded with over $45,000 worth of supplies and equipment from a construction job site.

Photos courtesy/Van Buren County Sheriff's Office

Lawton woman charged with embezzling $50,000 from family member

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, Barbara Cavner, 66, of Lawton, was arraigned before Magistrate James Becker of the 7th District Court in Paw Paw for embezzling approximately $50,000 from her aunt, announced Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. Cavner is charged with one count of Embezzlement from a Vulnerable Adult-$20,000 or more but less than $50,000, a felony punishable by up to 10 years' incarceration and/or a fine of $15,000 or three times the value of the money or property involved, whichever is greater.

In March 2021, Cavner's aunt was admitted to an assisted care facility in Lawton, where she remained until August 2023 before transferring to another facility in the same town with Cavner acting as her aunt's attorney-in-fact, or durable power of attorney. Between March 2021 and October 2024, Cavner allegedly used large sums of her aunt's money for her own needs. It is alleged that Cavner withdrew cash, made point-of-sale purchases, and wrote checks to herself.

"Too often, we see the assets of vulnerable adults unlawfully siphoned away when they move into a residential care setting," said Nessel. "We will continue to hold people who take advantage of older adults accountable."

Cavner was scheduled to appear for a Probable Cause Conference on Feb. 12, and a Preliminary Examination on Feb. 18. She was released on a personal recognizance bond.

The Attorney General's Health Care Fraud Division (HCFD) handled this case for the Department. The HCFD is the federally certified Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for Michigan, and it receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling $5,703,460 for the fiscal year 2025. The remaining 25 percent, totaling $1,901,152, is funded by the State of Michigan.

Hi-speed internet comes to Lee Township

(TNS) — About 600 homes in rural Allegan County will have access to high-speed fiber Internet buy the end of this year.

Southfield -based 123NET said Wednesday, Feb. 5 , it entered an agreement with Lee Township to build an additional 15 miles of fiber for approximately 600 underserved homes as part of a larger broadband project for Allegan County.

The $65 million, countywide project includes building approximately 1,100 miles of high-capacity fiber. Pullman, a rural area in Lee Township, now has been added to the project, with the township and county each contributing about $450,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds to support incremental costs.

"Leveraging our ARPA funds enabled us to included Pullman in 123NET's broadband infrastructure development project across Allegan County," Lee Township Supervisor Rich Rawson said in a statement. "Rural Digital Opportunity Fund and USDA Reconnect grants have been awarded to vendors for areas north and south in Lee Township, but the Pullman area remains unserved and unfunded.

"With 123NET already active in the region, this partnership brings this essential service to our residents."

Construction on 123NET's open-access, carrier-neutral fiber network in Allegan County began in 2023, and over 50% of the initial project is complete as of December 2024, according to 123NET.

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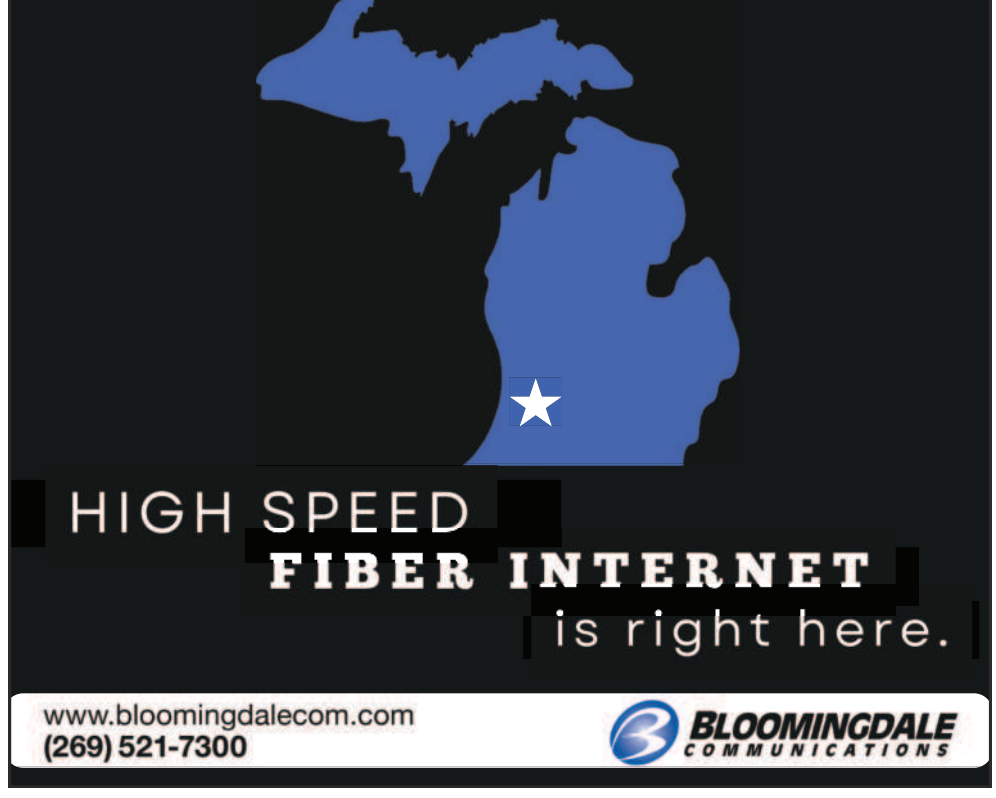

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Mattawan High School to present musical

Music Theatre International describes Legally Blonde as "A fabulously fun award-winning musical based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde The Musical, follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Action-packed and exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances - this musical is so much fun, it should be illegal! Elle Woods appears to have it all! Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend Warner dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle ingeniously charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with peers, professors and her ex. With the support of some new friends, though, Elle quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world." Legally Blonde strides in Feb. 21, 22, 28, March 1, and 2. Legally Blonde is rated PG-13 for mild adult themes and profanity. Tickets are $16 for adults, $14 for seniors (55+), and $12 for students. Tickets are available at: Mattawan.Ludus.com.

Area News Briefs

Historical talk on Lawrence to be held Thursday, Feb. 13

LAWRENCE - Van Buren County Historical Society President Sandy Merchant will present History of Lawrence, Thursday, (tonight) Feb.13, at 7 p.m. at the Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South St., Lawrence.

The presentation will feature historical photos of Lawrence, newspaper clippings and arti-facts.

The event is sponsored by the Lawrence Community Development Committee, Van Buren County Historical Society and the Van Buren County Poorhouse Museum.

Lawrence Branch Library to hold two-day sale

LAWRENCE - Calling all book lovers – New and used books, bestsellers, hardcovers, DVDs, paperbacks, mysteries, romance, science fiction, children's books at the Friends of the Lawrence Library two-day Book Sale, Friday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Van Buren District Library Lawrence Branch Library, 212 N. Paw Paw St., Law-rence.

For information about the sale, call (269) 674-3200.

Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloom-ingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

Columbarium added to Prospect Hill Cemetery

PAW PAW - A columbarium has been added to Prospect Hill Cemetery, Paw Paw, for additional cremation plot options, according to Township Supervisor Tom Palenick. There are no more burial sites available in the cemetery, according to Palenick.

Full burials and cremation plots are available in both Wildey and Cuddeback cem-eteries.

In addition to Prospect, Wildey, and Cuddeback cemeteries, other township ceme-teries include Pioneer and Clapp.

For pricing and other information, contact the Paw Paw Township Clerk's Office at (269) 657-4340.

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SH Planning Commission to ask City Council to consider recommendations for STRs

By James Windell

Despite threats of a lawsuit and other consequences, the South Haven City Council at their regular meeting on Monday, February 3, 2025, passed a resolution pertaining to Short Term Rentals (STR).

Resolution 2025—09 proposed an additional six-month extension on the registration and commencement of any new STR businesses and the cancellation of the lottery for 2025.

A previous six-month moratorium was approved by the City Council last year. Although there are, according to the Short-Term Rental Snapshot Report released last month, 35 possible STR certificates available, those were previously put on hold by the moratorium. After the Short-Term Rental Snapshot report was presented to the City Council in January, 2024, City staff began preparing for a drawing, or lottery, to issue the new "non-exempt" business rental certificates identified in the report as being available for 2024. However, at a City Council meeting in February, 2024, the Council voted to enact a six-month moratorium to prohibit the issuance of the 27 available non-exempt business rental certificates and cancel the lottery scheduled for 2024. A second moratorium was implemented by the City Council in August, 2024.

Although only three South Haven residents made public comments on the proposed resolution, all three of them urged the City Council to oppose the moratorium extension. According to one speaker, "If you pass this resolution, we will be going to our lawyers first thing in the morning and file a lawsuit." He stated that adding another six-month moratorium would not be upheld by a Michigan court.

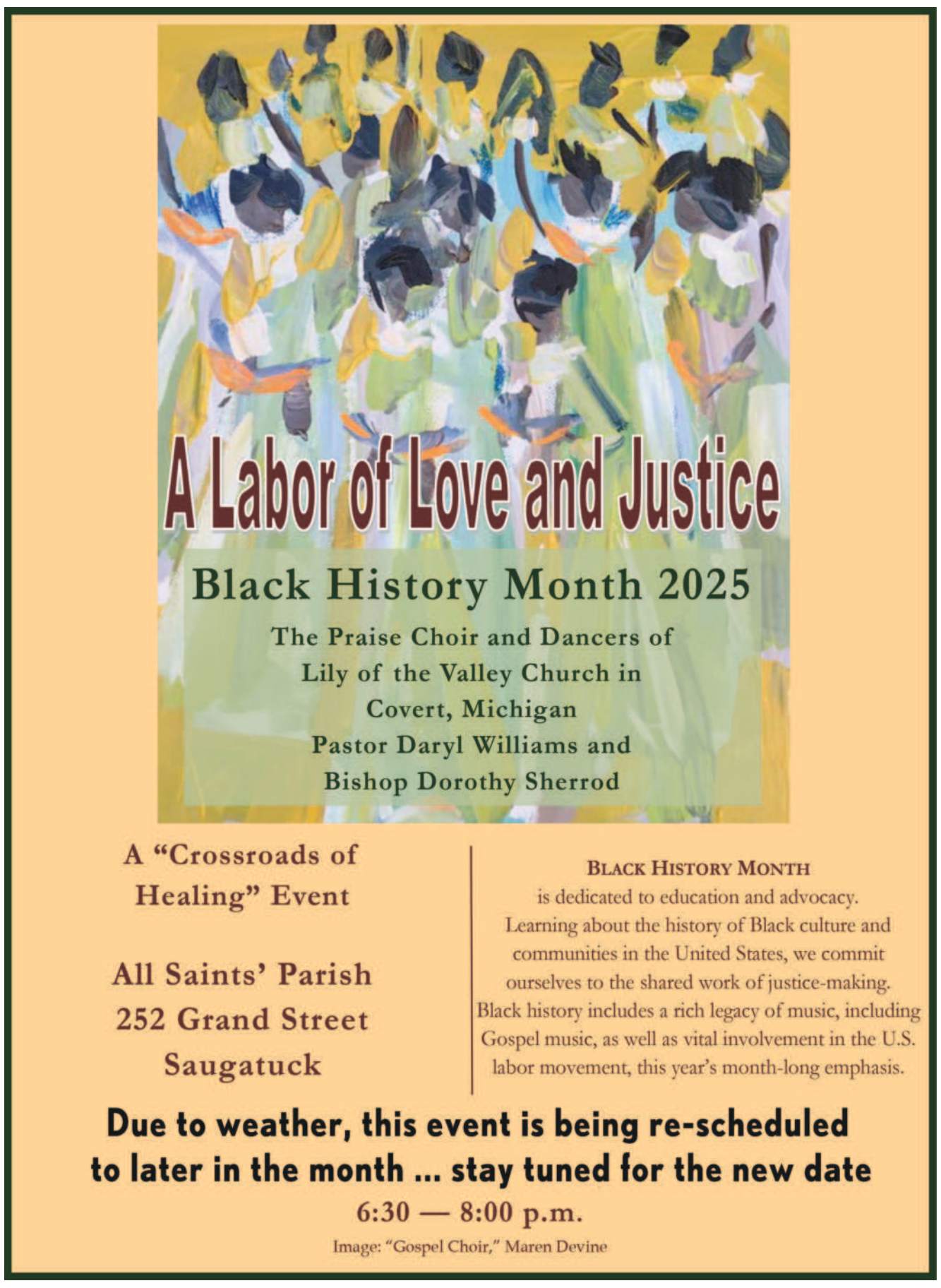
Another person making a public comment, asserted that "Extending this moratorium beyond a year is legally questionable, financially damaging, and an overreach of property rights." She added that no appellate court in Michigan has upheld a moratorium extending beyond six months.

Comments by City Manager Kate Hosier regarding the resolution reminded the council that there is a work group, appointed at the last City Council meeting, tasked with resolving issues holding up a new STR ordinance. "We are very close with our work group in getting something accomplished," Hosier said. The work group is to report back by the middle of February.

While some City Council members acknowledged that delaying a revised STR ordinance by approving a new moratorium extension was not likely to be a popular decision they nonetheless supported it.

When the roll call vote was completed, the resolution passed calling for a six-month extension of the moratorium.

The terms of the moratorium are that beginning on February 19, 2025 (at the end of the current moratorium that commenced on August 19, 2024) and continuing until August 19, 2025, the City will not accept any applications (or process or approve any pending applications or requests) to register or approve any new STR business units. The moratorium will have no effect on any STR that was registered and certified prior to January 1, 2024.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Black History Month 2025
The Praise Choir and Dancers of
Lily of the Valley Church in
Covert, Michigan
Pastor Daryl Williams and
Bishop Dorothy Sherrod
A "Crossroads of Healing" Event
All Saints' Parish
252 Grand Street
Saugatuck
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
is dedicated to education and advocacy.
Learning about the history of Black culture and communities in the United States, we commit ourselves to the shared work of justice-making.
Black history includes a rich legacy of music, including Gospel music, as well as vital involvement in the U.S. labor movement, this year's month-long emphasis.
Due to weather, this event is being re-scheduled to later in the month ... stay tuned for the new date
6:30 — 8:00 p.m.
Image: "Gospel Choir," Maren Devine

Mills charged with death of mother

A murder charge has been filed against a man in the death of his mother, who he lived with near Pullman, Allegan County Sheriff deputies say.

Craig Michael Mills, 23, faces a charge of open murder in the death of 43-year-old Mable Mills, who Allegan County deputies identify as his mother. On Sept. 19, she was found dead in her home in Lee Township when deputies went there for a welfare check

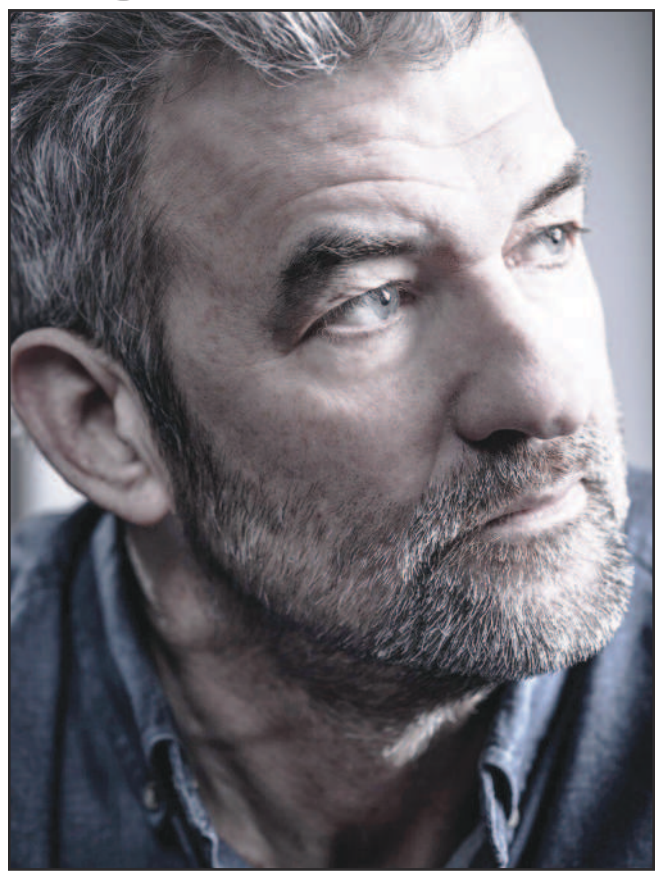
A manager at a local gas station where she worked had requested the welfare check because Mable Mills hadn't been at work for two days. There were no signs of break-in at the home, deputies said at the time.

Craig Mills was arrested by Berrien County sheriff's deputies two days earlier, "the day Mable Mills is believe to have been killed," according to the Allegan County Sheriff's Office. He had been driving Mable Mills' car and was involved in a crash. He resisted officers and was booked into the Berrien County Jail on charges related to the crash.

He continues to be held in Berrien County.

Luc's Light to hold benefit

Trino



Brian Vander Ark

PAW PAW - Luc's Light will hold the third annual Shine Together Gala featuring Brian Vander Ark of The Verve Pipe Saturday, Feb. 22, from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. at Paw Paw High School's Performing Art Center, 30609 Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw.

Vander Ark will appear along with special guests Trino, Will Juggle, Aerial Ashley and Luc's Light student performers.

Event proceeds will benefit Luc's Light and the new Teen Music and Arts Center.

Vander Ark is the lead singer and principal songwriter for the multi-platinum alternative rock band The Verve Pipe, recognized worldwide for their radio hits Photograph, Hero, Happiness Is, Never Let You Down, and the No. 1 smash single The Freshmen.

In addition to their success on radio, TV and film, sold-out concert dates throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia, features in Rolling Stone, Interview Magazine and many more, and videos on MTV and VH1, Vander Ark and the band have made numerous television appearances, including 'The Tonight Show with Jay Leno' and 'Late Night With David Letterman.'

During breaks from his work with The Verve Pipe, Vander Ark set out on his own to launch a multifaceted solo career that has included releasing four acclaimed independent studio albums - Resurrection, Angel Put Your Face On, Brian Vander Ark and Magazine as well as his collections of cover songs called Planet Sunday Sessions, Volume 1 & II. He's also collaborated with actor/musician Jeff Daniels on the Simple Truths, an album of original Americana songs while continuing to write and record original music with The Verve Pipe, including their most recent independent album, Reconciled, set for release in early 2025.

After years of large-scale touring, Vander Ark was challenged by a need for more personal fan experience. In response, he created the "Lawn Chairs and Living Rooms" house concert series, performing over 900 intimate shows in the homes of fans across America. He's also a sought-after speaker, telling his compelling story of success and reinvention to both motivate and inspire the management and staff of corporations, financial institutions, schools, non-profits and more.

Whether solo or with The Verve Pipe, Brian performs in concert throughout North America, including notable appearances at Lollapalooza, Austin City Limits Festival, Lincoln Center, Hangout Music Festival, SummerStage in Central Park, and many more.

Trino's high-energy magic and comedic timing has dazzled audiences ranging from Super Bowl and Stanley Cup champions to rockstars, Fortune 500 executives, Olympic gold medalists and college students. With his modern twist on the ancient art of illusion, Trino blends sharp-witted humor, mind-blowing magic, and audience participation, making every performance unforgettable. Growing up just an hour from "The Magic Capital of the World" (Colon, MI), Trino was taught the art by top professionals, quickly evolving into a seasoned performer with over 16 years of experience. Based in Grand Rapids, Mich., he now travels the country with his wife, Ashley, and their hairless cats, Cannoli and Biscotti. As seen on Fox, The Verge, the CW Network, and ABC, Trino's talents have taken him to new heights, including a guest act on the Masters of Illusion tour. Most recently, he was featured on the CW Network's newest season of Masters of Illusion.

Will Juggle - As a plucky schoolboy with a burning desire to entertain, Will began honing his performance skills. Tiring of his day job, at age 10, he began impressing crowds on nights and weekends as his mother chauffeured him around the suburbs of Chicago. He has since opened for the Presidents of the United States of America, charmed hordes of Harley riders, enchanted university students, and entertained at corporate events across the nation. His relentless devotion to his craft has left him with amazing skills and very few friends. You will laugh at his unique brand of humor and become filled with awestruck wonderment at his champion juggling skills and award-winning beard.

Aerial Ashley - High-flying contemporary circus performer Aerial Ashley will leave you mesmerized by her shear strength and grace on the silks. With a 14-year background in dance, Aerial Ashley's modern take on this acrobatic spectacle will leave audiences wanting more. Recently, she became a certified Aerial Arts instructor at the New England Center for Circus Arts and teaches in Grand Rapids.

From 4 to 7 p.m., a VIP Pre-Show reception will be held at St. Julian Winery Barrel Room, 716 S. Kalamazoo St., where VIPs will enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and charcuterie along with drinks, silent auction items and special guests followed by reserved seating for the Shine Together Variety Show at the PAC.

Those attending are encouraged to follow a dress code of creative cocktail attire. "Where what makes you feel great and have fun!" according to event organizers.

Luc's Light Youth Music & Arts Foundation recently purchased its first permanent location in Paw Paw, at 507 W. Michigan Ave., formerly The Outpouring Café. The space is being transformed into Luc's Light Teen Music and Arts Center, a vibrant hub for art instruction, creative expression and meaningful community for teens in sixth grade through age 20 in Van Buren County and beyond.

Guided by the mission - "Providing teens of Southwest Michigan the tools and training to explore and develop their artistic talents and creative expression in a safe and supportive environment." "I'm very proud of my family for making beauty from broken, recognizing an issue and working to solve it with a board of dedicated community members who believe in the next generation" said Trino Schincariol, president of Luc's Light. The organization was founded in 2022 by the family of Luciano "Luc" Schincariol. Luc was a 2021 honors graduate of Paw Paw High School, a talented musician and artist who passed away at the age of 18. His kind and helpful spirit is being carried on through the mission of Luc's Light. Currently percussion, three levels of guitar and two different art classes are offered at no cost.

Luc's Light, with community support, has achieved its initial goals, including partnering with area schools through the Van Buren County ISD's Youth Initiative to support transportation, equipment, supplies and instructors. Luc's Light has raised enough money in three years to put half towards this building purchase and over 90 percent of the other funding towards operational costs with an all-volunteer board.

For more information, e-mail: info@lucslight.com.

VIP shuttle will be available from Paw Paw PAC to St. Julian Winery and back. Van Buren Public Transit will operate a shuttle between the PPHS Performing Arts Center, Luc's Light Teen Center and VIP pre-party at St. Julian Winery between 3:45 and 7 p.m. and resume following the show until 9:30 p.m. It is recommended that VIP guests park at the PAC, shuttle to St. Julian and shuttle back to the PAC for the show. The shuttle will take guests in both directions as needed before and after the performance with stops at the new Teen Center pre-show.

Juveniles apprehended after breaking into vehicles

On February 10, 2025, at approximately 1500 hours, deputies from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) responded to a business on West Main Street in Oshtemo Township, for a report of two juveniles breaking into a vehicle in the parking lot.

When confronted by staff, the juveniles fled the scene on foot toward the nearby Menards parking lot.

Deputies arrived at Menards and quickly located the juveniles inside the store. As they were being detained, it was discovered that one of them had stolen a handgun from the vehicle at the previous business. The firearm was recovered, and further investigation revealed that the juveniles were also in possession of marijuana.

One of the juveniles, who was in possession of the stolen firearm, was lodged at the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home. The other was released to family pending charges.

KCSO reminds the community to always lock their vehicle doors when entering a store and strongly encourages firearm owners to avoid storing firearms in their vehicles. Preventing easy access to firearms helps reduce crime and enhances public safety.

Anyone with additional information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office at (269) 383-8745 or Silent Observer at (269) 343-2100.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites available

Sites are open February and March for all qualifying residents of Van Buren County.

South Haven:

Senior Services, 8337 M-140 St. Appointment only: (269) 468-9410. Hours to call 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointment dates are from Jan. 29 to March 26 on Wednesdays only.

Paw Paw:

By appointment only. No walk-ins this year. VITA will take appointments for this county. The address for the location will be given when making the appointment. Drop-off only, return in two weeks to review and pick up. Drop-offs will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1to 6 p.m. Feb. 4 to March 27.

To make an appointment, call (269) 934-3717.

What to bring:

•Valid picture ID, such as Driver's License, Michigan State ID, Military.

•A copy of last year's tax return (2023), if you have one.

•Social Security cards or annual social security statements (SSA-1099) for all persons on your return.

•W-2 and/or 1099 forms from all 2024 jobs.

•All 2024 forms 1099 including 1099R pension/401k, 1099-Int interest earned, 1099-G unemployment, and 1099-NEC from employers you worked for.

•2024 Summer and Winter property tax bills

•Renters: Your monthly rent for each month in 2024 and your landlord's name and address.

•IRS notices or letters sent to you or someone in your household during 2024.

•Heating bills from Nov. 1, 2023 to Oct. 31, 2024 or contact your utility provider for your 2024 allowable heat credit deduction.

•If you have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITINs), please bring your ITIN card that was sent to you from the IRS.

•You will need a Social Security number to claim the Child Tax Credit.

•Routing number and account number from your bank for your refund to be directly and quickly deposited. You may still receive a paper check.

•If you have received assistance from the Department of Health & Human Services in 2024, bring your annual statement.

•Receipts for childcare expenses, including provider's name, address, and EIN/Social Security number.

•Invoices and/or receipts for residential energy credit.

•Healthy Michigan Marketplace Insurance Information Form 1095-A for 2024.

•If married filing jointly, both spouses must sign to authorize e-file and other forms.

•Any statements received from a mortgage company during 2024, or name and address of landlord and amount of rent paid.

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SPORTS

Lawton junior hoping for championship season

Mackenzee Terpstra

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Mackenzee Terpstra is a junior for Lawton's girls basketball team which is off to an impressive 10-2 start after a 63-29 win over Holland Black River last week.

It's her third year on varsity.

The first two years "were good, we were strong," Terpstra said. "We had a winning season. I got honorable mention (all-conference) last year. Right now we're set for our best year. I'm set for my best year, especially being a junior."

She's 10-to-15 points and three steals a game.

Terpstra has had as many as 20 points in a game. She plays the wing-guard spot. The 3-point shot and onside jumpers are among her top weapons, she said.

To be an effective 3-point shooter, the key, Terpstra said, "is not thinking about you shot and was just letting it go and if you miss it, moving on to the next shot."

Terpstra indicated her strengths were being a pretty good passer and being a really good shooter."

Lawton's team for the rest of the season "I think can get pretty far and we can go to regionals, Terpstra said. "We're hoping to go to regionals this year."

The farthest one of Terpstra's team as advanced has been to the district finals.

She only plays basketball and is involved year around She has played since sixth grade.

Lawton sophomore a valuable contributor

Halie Bishop is now in her sophomore season with Lawton.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Halie Bishop has been getting the job done for Lawton's girls basketball team in her sophomore season.

This marks her second year on the varsity court.

Last year "was good," Bishop said. "It was nice, it was fun. It was like dipping your toes in the water and seeing what varsity basketball is all about. There were some big games."

This season, "has been good. We lost a lot of seniors. But the team has been fresh. And I feel we are better this year than we were last year."

Lawton is 12-3 after its first 15 games and two of the losses have been to Kalamazoo Hackett.

"We've had some key wins," Bishop said. "I would say the key to those wins have been our energy and executing on what we were doing, like if it was defense and watching a specific player in the corner and we executed, making sure we were running through our plays; getting back and never taking a play off."

Bishop has been point guard for Lawton.

"I do a lot of ball handling and a lot of scoring," she said. "I also hold out pretty well on the defensive end."

Her highest point total has been 19 points. Layups has been her No. 1 shot, especially since she gets a lot of steals. I'm pretty good at shooting."

The key to being effective on defense is "listening and reading what the other players are doing," Bishop said "I'm able to read the court very well."

Bishop also runs track but especially focuses on basketball.

South Haven cheerleaders having strong season

South Haven cheerleaders continue to have a strong season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Coach Rachel Burson's South Haven cheerleaders continued to have a strong season.

South Haven competed on Feb. 6 at Delton Kellogg, was third at the fourth and final conference meet, and Feb. 7 at the Berrien Springs Invitational.

All four conference meets, South Haven finished in third place.

South Haven partakes in the Gull Lake Invitational and in the Paw Paw Districts on Feb. 15.

South Haven has had an average score of 619.46.

"This has been an amazing season, beating scores and continuing to improve," Burson said. "The girls also went to Coloma last Monday (Feb. 3) and placed second."

"We complete our rounds very well and we intend to continue to improve," cheerleader Cora Eddy said. "We have already almost exceeded our goal of 600 points made last year so I am so excited to see what can be accomplished throughout this season."

The objective in the three rounds is as follows:

Round 1: Cheerleaders show off their jumping skills and ability to choreograph motions.

Round 2: Cheerleaders perform a precision drill, tumbling, jumping, and flexibility.

Round 3: Cheerleaders perform stunts.

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Lawrence needs baseball coach

By John Raffel

Lawrence athletic director Noah Wiswary has announced he is looking for variety baseball coach for the spring season.

Practices start on March 10.

Job Goal: To help each participating student achieve a high level of skill, an appreciation for the values of discipline and sportsmanship, and an increased level of self-esteem.

Qualifications:

-Sport specific participation -Coaching experience preferred -CAP Level 1 completion preferred -CPR/AED Certification.

Any one interested should call the school and ask for Wiswary or contact him at noahwiswary@lawrencetigers.org/

The Lawrence baseball season is set to start on March 25 with a doubleheader at Three Oaks River Valley. The first home twin bill, after spring break, is on April 12 with Mendon.

There will be road games on April 14 at Cassopolis and on April 17 at White Pigeon. Lawrence is home on April 21 vs. Marcellus and at Decatur on April 24. There are home twinbills on April 28 with Bloomingdale, on May 1 with Hartford, on May 5 with Bangor and on May 8 with Centreville.

Paw Paw wrestlers lose

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's wrestling team lost 48-36 in team districts to Otsego on Feb. 5 to end the Wolves' team season.

Paw Paw got forfeit wins at 106 for Mason Volenski and at 113 for Sophia Fonseca. Paw Paw forfeited 120 to Brian Johnson.

Also for Paw Paw Lucas Tuiranzas (120) was pinned in 1:57 by Zeke Andrija, Ty Elmore (132) was pinned in 1:25 by Sawyer Kalkman, David Pokurney (138) was pinned in 1:25, Kholby Armijo (144) pinned Blake Mathieu (0:48), Zackary Peak (150) pinned Gabe Conley in 2:45; Carter Thompson (157) was pinned in 35 seconds; Kameron Armijo (165) pinned David Gray in 40 seconds; Gunner Gale (175) pinned Vonte Boyce in 1:52;

Jaydon Smith (190) was pinned in 33 seconds by Kole Engleright; Vincent Chavez (215) was pinned in 3:17 by Jose Serrano and Aaron Quilles (285) was pinned by 4:19 by Ryder Balkema.

Lawrence girls defeat Eau Claire

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Lawrence enjoyed a 60-14 win over Eau Claire on Monday.

Senior Hailey Camp had 21 points, 17 rebounds and five blocks for Lawrence.

Senior Brooklyn Remelts had 12 points while sophomore Colleen McCaw had 11 points.

On Feb. 4, it was Lawrence 40 and Bangor 34

Camp had 22 points, 12 rebounds and 12 blocks, McCaw had eight points, senior Kelsey Harroun had six points and junior Kaylin Leyva had four points.

Lawrence boys basketball beats Fennville 47-42 on Monday. For Lawrence

Alex Gardner had 23 points, Dillon Simpson had nine points and David Miller six points.

Lawrence boys basketball picks up a big win at Bangor 56-41 on Tuesday after losing to them earlier in the year. Lawrence started off hot with sophomore Gabe Doorlag hitting 3 threes in the first half. Going along with 12 solid points for Alex Gardner in the first half, the Tigers took a strong lead into halftime leading 34-14.

Lawrence struggled in the third quarter only scoring five points. But scores from Dillon Simpson and then another one from Gabe Soorlag gave the Tigers a comfortable lead.

Alex Gardner had 20 points, Gave Doorlag 13 points, Dillon Simpson 10 points and David Miller seven points

Bangor girls fall to Centreville

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Coach Bret Witkowski's girls basketball team at Bangor on Feb. 7 lost 67-39 to Cassopolis.

Jaelynn Little had 15 points while Lexi Wisniewski had seven points and eight rebounds.

"The Vikings finished a tough stretch of three games in four days all on the road against three of the four top teams in the conference," Witkowski said. "The Vikings fell behind 9-0 but closed the gap to 12-8."

It was Bangor 34 Lawrence 40

Stat Leaders: Jaelynn Little 11 points; Lexi Wisniewski 10 points; K'liyana O'Steen 8 points; O'Steen 4 rebounds.

The Vikings traveled to take on the Tigers at Lawrence. It was hard fought game from start to finish.

The Tigers led from the start but the Vikings got within two with minutes to go to close it to a 34-32 game but were not able to get over the top.

Bangor's record is overall 5-7 and conference 3-6.

Bangor lost to Centreville 44-24 on Feb. 6 and 40-34 to Lawrence on Feb. 4.

Bangor is 5-8 and was scheduled to play at home on Feb. 11. Also coming up are road games on Feb. 12 with Bloomingdale and Feb. 14 at Marcellus. There are home games on Feb. 18 with Bloomingdale and on Feb. 20 with White Pigeon.

The Bangor boys are 2-15 after a 69-48 loss to Burr Oak on Feb.10, 62-22 loss to Centreville on Feb. 7 and 52-47 loss to Bloomingdale on Feb. 5.

Jonah Luter led the team in scoring with 20 points against Bloomingdale. Julian Pullins made 5 threes and scored 16 points. Jonah Luter scored 11 points and Terrance Payne had 12 rebounds against Centreville.

Bangor Boys Basketball lost 41 - 56 last night against Lawrence. Bangor outscored Lawrence 15 to 5 in the 3rd quarter but could not complete the comeback. Jonah Luter scored 13 points, Julian Pullins scored 12 points, and Jaret McCoy scored 10 points.

Bangor Varsity Boys Basketball lost to Burr Oak at home 58-69. Jonah Luter scored 23 points, Jaret McCoy scored 14 points, and Julian Pullins scored 9 points. Terrance Payne added 8 points with 14 rebounds.

Mattawan girls lose to St. Joseph

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan lost to St. Joseph 57-19 back in December, but Thursday night the Wildcats gave the Bears a battle before falling 38-35.

St. Joseph was led by freshman Lauer Wright with 12.

Mattawan was led by freshman Charlotte Douglass with 12.

St. Joseph is now 11-2, Mattawan falls to 3-14.

Mattawan also lost recently 46-30 to Battle Creek Lakeview.

For Mattawan Claire Winans had 12 points, Caitlin Ryan and Charlotte Douglass 7 points each.

For BC Lakeview 46, A. Rankin had 11 points and A. Smith had 10.

Matawan also lost on Monday to Berrien Springs 71-38. The next game is Friday at Portage Central. Mattawan is home with Niles on Feb. 18.

Mattawan is 3-15.

The Mattawan boys on Feb. 7 beat St. Joseph 58-49. Earlier in the week, Mattawan lost 50-30 to Battle Creek Lakeview.

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VIEWPOINT

State mandated minimum wage increases will damage small business

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

You gotta feel for small businesses. Not only are their pricing and services under attack by big box stores and internet giants from here and China, they must weave through a ton of regulations placed on them by the government.

The Michigan State Legislature is now getting in the act, enacting several minimum increases through 2028. In a nutshell minimum wage was increased to $10.58 an hour on January 1. Most would say "no big deal." However, on Feb. 21, just a few days from now, it will increase nearly two dollars to $12.48 an hour.

Then for the next three years annual increase will be enacted. Minimum wage becomes $13.29 on Feb. 21, 2026; $14.16 on Feb. 21, 2027; and $14.97 on Feb. 21, 2028.

Furthermore, tipped workers will see a 100 percent by 2030. On Feb 21, 2025 their rate increases to $5.99; then two more dollars in 2026, two more in 2027 and two more in 2028, so that it is $11.98 per hour.

It may be noted that the substantial increases were part of an order from the state Supreme Court, which in 2024, ruled a decision to adopt a ballot proposal as presented above was not unconstitutional.

In addition to increasing the state's minimum wage each year, the law has increased paid sick time. Small businesses, less than 10 employees must provide 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Additionally the sick time can be accrued year after year. If you have more than 10 employees you must provide 72 hours of paid sick time per year.

Now many of us might see this as terrific news. We are going to get paid substantially more over the course of three years. BUT, at what cost? For small businesses it could be an enormous cost. Ditto bigger businesses.

And for the employee hoping to get paid, they may find themselves in the unemployment line, because I guarantee if they don't go out of business, restaurants and shops will cutback on the number of people they employ. Some will turn to automation, eliminating employees all together because they simply can't keep up with the minimum wage increases.

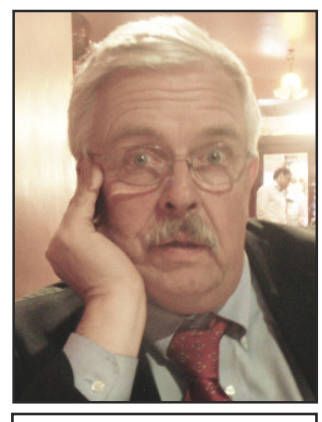
Fortunately the new legislature, now controlled by Republicans, is expected to address the issue. It may be noted that the substantial increases were part of an order from the state Supreme Court, which in 2024, ruled a decision to adopt a ballot proposal as presented above was not unconstitutional.

"We've heard from countless hardworking small business owners and their dedicated employees about what this ruling would mean for them. It would be a catastrophe, said state rep, Jay DeBoyer.

DeBoyer and other conservative lawmakers have formed a committee to address these over-the-top issues. Additionally, Republicans have introduced several bills to slow down the current schedule of increases.

I hope the legislature is serious about tackling this situation. Sometimes they are more talk than action. I expect action this time around. Many of my small business friends and their employees are counting on it.

Life as Performance Art



G CORWIN STOPPEL

In December I wrote our list of Christmas cards was shrinking each year. Often this was because a friend had passed away. Our card would come back with a yellow USPS sticker saying it was undeliverable and the person's address unknown.

Each time it was a grim feeling. Pat would do some searching and eventually learn the person had died almost a year ago, sometimes longer than that. It was disheartening to know someone else was gone and we had never heard about it.

"I want you to promise," Pat told me one day, "if I go first, you will take our Christmas card list, write a letter and let people know." I said I would. As Robert Service wrote in the poem "The Shooting of Dan McGrew," "A promise made is a debt unpaid."

All too soon, the time came to honor that promise, days after she passed away at the end of last month. The letter was written, copied and put in the mail.

There is nothing easy about doing that sort of work, but I hope you will consider how important it is to do it.

The passing of a loved one leaves a hole in our lives, maybe in most of humanity. Sometimes it almost feels easier to avoid letting other people know. Each retelling of the tale is another wound to the heart and soul.

Yet to shirk this duty is to mean their passing goes unnoticed, and that never makes things better, only worse.

Those letters are also our chance to write something meaningful about our loved one or friend who died. In our fractured and often angry world, people need to be inspired by good news and examples, something inspiring and encouraging, in the lives of others.

It is important remembering to take advantage of every moment we can spend with people, because hours and minutes are not infinite. One day we run out of those them.

Once, when I lived in Canada, I ran across a retired Regimental Sergeant Major from the nearby airbase. We talked for a few minutes, leaning against his truck in the grocery store parking lot, before he got back behind the wheel.

I assumed we'd see each other in a few days. Instead, he drove straight into a light pole. He had suffered a heart attack and died with his foot on the accelerator.

Other times we are blest to have more time and even a long goodbye. Or they have that with us. We never really do know, except that there is a finite number.

Life comes to an end, and when it happens to us the world will keep working without our supervision. Even with it still ticking along more or less as usual, people still need to know an old friend isn't around.

The writer of such letters benefits as well. By committing thoughts and feelings to paper, they can better appreciate the person they have lost.

At least thinking about that letter I hope you don't write for a long time, might enhance your relationship with the person who shares your life.

Getting started on that letter might enhance the relationship you share with your best bud, main squeeze,or spouse. You might find it helpful to care even more for family and friends.

I watch people, often as not to give me ideas for my writing. I've seen many couples who forget or ignore these messages about staying connected with people, especially with each other. You have seen them too.

It is not the couple who are delightedly talking with each other and sharing laughs. It might not be the couple that is having a spat because they will soon kiss and make up. Maybe.

The most tragic are the couples who are bored with each other. From across a room, you can see the apathy and boredom in their faces.

Nothing kills a relationship quicker and more effectively than apathy. In time, the relationship might come to an end, and they'll have to live with the consequences of their not caring hard enough to make it work.

There are a lot of "what ifs" in that situation. What if I had said yes to going out more often? What if we had worked harder at having fun? What if we had just gotten off the couch to go for a walk? What if we had worked harder at taking an interest in each other?

One widow told me what meant the most to her was her late husband always had something fun or interesting to tell her about his day.

"One day," she said, "I saw his car in the driveway, but no him. A few minutes later he explained that his day was pretty boring, so he chose to walk around the block hoping to come up with something that might make me laugh."

Time runs out, so before you have to sit down to write that letter, get to work on creating good memories. That is our life's performance art at its best.

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Friday, Feb. 21 3 pm-4 pm TEENS: Just for Fun Friday Hot Sauce Tasting
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters unrealistic, unfounded says reader

Dear Editor:

RE: Newspaper Feb. 6th, 2025

Practicing something even if it's offensive, objectionable, … or corrupt seems normal these days. Case in point is the resurgence of opinions based on made up and wishful thinking, even UN-Truths.

The February 6th Letter to the Editor opinions are clearly based on unrealistic, unfounded, … and discredited views for Michigan voters. Someone's reality or fitness for a job can be subjective; however, when millions of voters rejected false realities and unfitness statements gives pause to consider the Truth or Falsehood of contrived statements, opinions.

Speaking of heroes, there are many Religious Heroes; Religious Heroes are called Saints and usually are strict believers in the Ten Commandments spending their lives helping others and the community to became better and improve the Common Good. History has documented some religious practices promoting human depravity and murderous rituals: Sodom and Gomorrah and Inca human sacrifices.

It's surprising that in the 21st Century, finding Truth in Scripture is so difficult? It seems that Truth in scripture for some is illusive; as a result, other secular truths are adapted.

Reality, Fitness and Truth should be based on the best historical examples of cultural success; and, what a person studies, sees, hears and experiences for the Common Good. Of course, people have free will to make up "Whatever"!

What's your truth based on?

Phil Zamlynski

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Nic Rand 269-823-8613 nrand.properties@gmail.com
Blaine Allen 269-903-6276 blaine.rallen@gmail.com
"Community is our number one priority. We like to make you feel at home."
The Allen Group allengrouprealtors.com
THE ALLEN GROUP 239 N Main St, Ste A Lawton, MI 49065
five star* REAL ESTATE LEADERS

OBITUARY

Kathleen Mulrenin Soard

Kathleen Mulrenin Soard passed away on January 23, 2025, in Carthage, TN. She was born on May 26,1953, in Paw Paw, MI, to Charles and Louise Mulrenin, as the fourth of eventually seven children. Kathy grew up in Paw Paw, graduating from Paw Paw High School in 1971. In 1985 she married Tom Soard in Lake Tahoe, NV. They moved from Kalamazoo to a farm outside of Carthage, TN, in 1993, where for 20 years they raised a few cows, pigs, chickens, and goats, and she named every one of them! Birthday cards from her would list them all as family members.

She was active in animal rescue groups, taking great joy in caring for the kennel dogs at the Smith County (TN) Humane Society. She even took some of the "unadoptable" dogs into her home and gave them love in their last years. Kathy also had what must be the world's largest collection of owl-themed décor and clothing, from stuffed to ceramic to wall hangings, clocks, kitchen towels—you name she had an owl on it!

Kathy's family members who preceded her in death are her husband Tom, her parents Chuck and Louise, her brother Danny, and her sister Mary Ann. Surviving are sisters Pat Gund (Sun City, CA), Peggy Mulrenin (Clemmons, NC), Kerry (Dale) Eldred (Palm Bay, FL), brother Tom (Karen) Mulrenin (Melbourne, FL), step daughter Chris Brown (Cleveland, TN), step son Tim Soard(Portsmouth, OH), and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her cat O'Bama, the last of her many rescues. Memorial contributions may be made to smithcountytnhumane.com in her name.

William Owen Marks

William Owen Marks 07/26/1941 - 01/15/2"25

Bill passed after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy Hazzard Marks.He was preceded in death by his parents, Owen and Jean Marks, a sister Joanne. Two sisters, Beverly Jean Tyler and Bettylou Wragg survive him. One brother, Joseph also survives. Bill was an outstanding athlete, teacher and coach. A celebration of his life will take place at his home in Portland, MI on May 24, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PORTER TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY
88040 M-40 Lawton, MI 49065
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2025

- Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt and Smith. Also present – Attorney Moraitis and eight guests.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Nesbitt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 11, 2024. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Bitely to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to approve the 24/25 quarterly budget amendments as presented, with a new fiscal year net loss of $78,840. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Smith with support by Nesbitt to schedule Board of Review meetings for March 12 10:00 – 4:00 and March 13 2:00 – 8:00. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Bitely with support by Nesbitt to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1011-DE
Estate of **JAMES MICHAEL DAVIS**

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **James Michael Davis, died December 22, 2022 (12/22/2022).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Zachary Burdick,** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw St. #220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
February 4,2025 (2/4/2025)
Attorney:
Christopher P. Atallah P73224
805 Oakwood Drive, Ste. 125, Rochester, MI 48307
(248) 613-0007
Personal Representative
Zachary Burdick
1708 Harrison Street, Evanston, IL 60201
(773) 439-0724

State of Michigan
Judicial Circity - Family Division
Van Buren County
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE
CASE NO. 2024-7041-NC
JUDGE SUSAN METZGER P62867
IN THE MATTER OF **Jamison nathaniel hamilton**
To All Persons, including: whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Jamison Nathaniel Hamilton has filed a petition for name change.
A name change hearing will be held on February 27, 2025 (2/27/2025) at the Probate Courtroom 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079 before Judge Susan Metzger P62867 to change the name of:
Jamison nathaniel Hamilton to Jamison Nathaniel Whelan

State of Michigan
36th Judicial District • Judicial Circit • County Probate
ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/ POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION
CASE NO.2024-0000074357-CH
Plaintiff:
Bethany Presbyterian Church
208 W. Exchange St., Gobles, MI 49055
269-628-2646
Plaintiff's Attorney:
Shane A. Henry (82054)
Wheeler Upham, P.C.
250 Monroe Ave. NW, Ste. 100, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-459-7100
V
Defendant:
Unknown Does
Addresses and Telephone Numbers Unknown

TO: Unknown heirs of Hiram and Susan Goble
It Is Ordered:
1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to quiet title in the property located at 202 W. Exchange St., Gobles, MI 49055. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before March 27th. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.
2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in The Courier Leader for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: SID L. BERRY; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 1/30/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-016961; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Sid L. Berry and Dana M. Berry, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc., Mortgagee, dated April 23, 2007 and recorded April 30, 2007 in Liber 1482, Page 767 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by Apex Bank, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Eight Thousand Fifty-Two and 58/100 Dollars ($138,052.58).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Columbia, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
COMMENCING ON THE SOUTH SECTION LINE AT A POINT 180 FEET EAST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 29, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH AND SOUTH EIGHTH LINE 603.42 FEET; THENCE EASTERLY 609.6 FEET TO A POINT 603.6 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 29; THENCE SOUTHERLY 603.6 FEET TO THE SOUTH SECTION LINE AT A POINT 609.42 FEET EASTERLY FROM THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE WESTERLY ON SAID SOUTH SECTION LINE 609.42 FEET TO BEGINNING, EXCEPT COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE WEST ON SAID SOUTH LINE OF THE SECTION 150 FEET; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH SAID NORTH AND SOUTH EIGHTH LINE 338 FEET; THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH SECTION LINE TO THE EAST LINE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE SOUTH ON SAID EAST LINE TO BEGINNING.
55280 Country Road 380, Grand Junction, Michigan 49056
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 30, 2025
File No. 24-016961
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(01-30)(02-20)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: KELLY L. BRAUTIGAM; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 1/30/2025; ATTY FILE #: 24-016217; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kelly L. Brautigam, to Terry Dornan, Mortgagee, dated September 14, 2001 and recorded October 8, 2001 in Liber 1340, Page 945 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Bayview Financial Mortgage Pass-Through Trust 2006-D, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-D, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Seventeen and 93/100 Dollars ($50,217.93).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 27, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of DECATUR, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
LOT 16, BLOCK L, OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT OF 1905, BEING A PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 19, TOWN 4 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF, EXCEPT THE SOUTHEASTERLY 50 FEET WIDE OF LOT 16.
201w Saint Marys St, Decatur, Michigan 49045
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 30, 2025
File No. 24-016217
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(01-30)(02-20)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Ron Craft; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 1/23/2025; Atty File #: 24-017259; Insurer: (unknown)
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236,

Continues on page 8

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that a Public Hearing/Regular Meeting will be held by the Village of Decatur Village Council on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Decatur Village Hall located at 114 North Phelps Street within the Village.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE **that the item(s) to be considered at this Public Hearing include, in brief, the following:**

1. Notice of Public Hearing on Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year Budget 2025.
2. Notice of Public Hearing on Budget Adoption for Fiscal Year Budget 2026.

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	REVENUE FY 2026	EXPENSE FY 2026
101	GENERAL FUND	$1,435,603.00	$1,518,592.00
202	MAJOR ROAD FUND	$204,010.00	$92,600.00
203	LOCAL ROAD FUND	$211,177.00	$227,150.00
213	SALVAGE VIN FUND	$13,200.00	$13,200.00
204	STREETS FUND	$175,300.00	$125,000.00
244	BUSINESS LOANS FUND	$0	$0
245	HOME REHAB FUND	$0	$0
248	DDA FUND	$47,460.00	$40,050.00
590	SEWER FUND	$332,500.00	$341,091.88
591	WATER FUND	$ 1,027,400.00	$957,844.88
661	MOTOR POOL FUND	$159,500.00	$159,500.00
	OTHER	$168,290.00	$132,000.00
	GRAND TOTAL	**$3,774,440.00**	**$3,607,028.76**

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the draft amendments to the proposed mileages and budgets will be available at the public hearing.

The Village of Decatur will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Village Clerk.

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
Megan Duncan, Village Clerk
Decatur Village Hall
114 North Phelps St.
Decatur, MI 49045

Covert Public Schools

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Covert Public Schools is seeking applications for the current vacant position on the Covert Board of Education. An individual will be appointed to fill the vacant position until the November 2026 election.

Individuals must submit an application/letter of interest expressing interest in the Board position to the Secretary of the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board of Education, John Faul at the Van Buren Conference Center, 490 South Paw Paw Street, Lawrence, Michigan 49064 OR via email to dmanson@vbisd.org no later than noon on Friday, February 28, 2025. Application/Letter of Interest form can be found at www.vbisd.org.

Following a review of the submitted applications, the Van Buren Intermediate School District Board will schedule interviews with selected candidates between March 3-11, 2025. Not all applicants for the board vacancy may be interviewed. If you have any questions concerning the role of the Board of Education and the responsibilities of a Board member, please contact Yolanda Brunt, Superintendent of Covert Public Schools OR Dave Manson, Superintendent of Van Buren ISD.

TIMELINE

February 17 -28, 2025	Notice of vacancy advertised.
February 28, 2025	Deadline for submitting applications.
March 3-11, 2025	Board meets to review applications and hold interviews.
March 12, 2025	Board makes an appointment of the new board member.

To be eligible, a person must be a registered voter and resident in the area covered by Covert Public School District, at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the U.S., a resident of the State of Michigan for at least 30 days.

490 South Paw Paw Street * Lawrence, Michigan 49064
269.674.8091/ Fax: 269.674.8030 * vbisd.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
WAVERLY TOWNSHIP
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The Waverly Township March Board of Review for 2025 will be held at the Waverly Township Hall, 42114 M-43 Hwy, on the following dates:

March 4th, 2025 (8:00am – 9:00am) = **Organizational Meeting – No Appeals**
March 10th, 2025 (10:00am – 1:00pm & 2:00pm - 5:00pm) = **Appeal Hearing***
March 11th, 2025 (2:00pm – 5:00pm & 6:00pm – 9:00 pm) = **Appeal Hearing***

*By Board resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to March 11TH, 2025.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Class	Ratio	Factor	Class	Ratio	Factor
*Agricultural	46.96%	1.06474	*Commercial	46.38%	1.07805
*Residential	43.94%	1.13792	*Industrial	50.00%	1.00000
*Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000			

American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon (5) days notice.
Contact: (Starr Houston – 269-657-6847)

Anne Richmond
Assessor

Starr Houston
Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 7

MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Ron Craft and Suzanne Burrows-Craft, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for American Equity Mortgage, Inc., Mortgagee, dated April 28, 2004 and recorded May 11, 2004 in Liber 1413, Page 644 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON FKA THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE CERTIFICATEHOLDERS OF THE CWABS INC., ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2004-6, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Fifty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety and 27/100 Dollars ($53,290.27).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on FEBRUARY 20, 2025.
Said premises are located in the City of BANGOR, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF CASS STREET AT A POINT 465.00 FEET EAST OF THE WEST SECTION LINE; THENCE WEST, 102.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH, 86.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY PARALLEL WITH MONROE STREET, 112.20 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY TO BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF BLOCK 8, MONROE'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF BANGOR, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN AS RECORDED IN LIBER 1 OF PLATS, PAGE 17, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
108 E Cass Street, Bangor, Michigan 49013
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: January 23, 2025
File No. 24-017259
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Continues on page 9

TOWNSHIP OF ALMENA
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 27625 CR 375, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, to examine and review the 2025 Assessment Roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 7:00 am Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 9:00 am to Noon and 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 13, 2025, Noon to 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

and on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED. Contact the Assessor at 269-655-1144 or by email at **BEN.APGLLC@GMAIL.COM** for further information. Letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 11, 2025. Address listed below.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	48.28%	1.0356
Commercial	46.67%	1.0714
Industrial	45.18%	1.1067
Residential	45.93%	1.0886
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Joe Leduc, Supervisor Almena Township

Ben Brousseau, Assessor Almena Township

Almena Township Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, national origin, sex or disability.

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to Almena Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Almena Township by writing or calling.

Sandra Rickli
Almena Township Clerk
27625 County Road 375
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269.668.6910

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF PAW PAW
PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission of the Village of Paw Paw will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm,** at the Paw Paw Township Hall, located at 114 N. Gremps, Paw Paw, Michigan to consider the following amendment to the Village of Paw Paw Zoning Ordinance:

HEARING TYPE	Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment
DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	The Planning Commission is being asked to forward a recommendation to the Village Council on the amendments affecting the following sections of Chapter 42, Zoning, of the Village of Paw Paw Code of Ordinances: 1. Chapter 42, Section 42-3, Definitions, to define the term Outdoor Entertainment Venue. 2. Chapter 42, Section 42-223, Uses Subject to a Special Use Permit in the B-2, General Business Zoning District to add part (14) Outdoor Entertainment Venue. 3. Chapter 42, Section 42-367, Site Design Standards and Regulations for Special uses and Certain New Uses, Repeal (27) Other Uses and Replace with (27) Outdoor Entertainment Venue

These proposed Zoning Ordinance text amendments are available at the Village of Paw Paw offices for public examination and review during normal business hours. Interested persons may submit comments in writing before the public hearing, or appear in person at the public hearing to become part of the hearing record. The Village of Paw Paw will provide necessary and reasonable aids and services for disabled persons upon 5 days prior notice to the Village Offices at (269) 657-3148.

Kathy Larson, Chair
Village of Paw Paw Planning Commission

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-001

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 12-19 THROUGH 12-25 OF THE VILLAGE CODE TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS FOR THE VILLAGE'S JUVENILE CURFEW

The Village of Decatur Ordains:
Section 1. Amendment. Sections 12-19 through 12-25 of the Village Code are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 12-19. Curfew for minors.

a. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) below, it shall be unlawful for a minor 16 years of age and under to idle, congregate, traverse, or remain in or upon any public street, highway, alley, or other public place during the following times:
   1. Weekends: Between 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and 6:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
   2. Weekdays: Between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Sunday night through Thursday night (with the curfew each night extending into the following morning, Monday through Friday).

   This restriction does not apply if the minor is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or any other person 21 years of age or older who is authorized by a parent or guardian as the caretaker for the minor.
b. Notwithstanding the provisions in subsection (a) above, it shall not be a violation of this section for a minor 16 years of age and under to be in or upon any public street, highway, alley or other public place if the minor is:
   1. On an errand, without any detour or stop, at the direction of the minor's parent, guardian or caretaker.
   2. In a vehicle involved in interstate travel.
   3. Engaged in lawful employment activity, or going to or from employment, without any detour or stop.
   4. On the sidewalk in front of or alongside the minor's or the next-door neighbor's residence, if the neighbor has not complained to the police.
   5. Engaging in or enroute to the following authorized activities:
      A. A school or a school-sanctioned event or activity. For purposes of this subsection, school means a public or private school.
      B. A sporting event or activity, or extracurricular event or activity, that is not school- sanctioned but that is part of an official sports league or association or an official extracurricular club, or that is paid for as a service offered by a business specializing in those events or activities or training for those events or activities.
      C. A class or program of vocational instruction offered by a college, community college, nonprofit association, or unit of government or by a business specializing in vocational training.
      D. An event or activity sponsored by a religious organization.
a. Transporting an individual in need of immediate emergency care or personal protection to a health care professional, hospital, police station, domestic violence shelter, or public safety location.

Sec. 12-20. Responsibility of parent, guardian or other person having legal care and custody to enforce curfew.

a. It shall be unlawful for any parent, guardian or person having the legal care and custody of a minor person under the age of 17 years to allow or permit any such minor to be in violation of section 12-19.

Sec. 12-21. Lack of knowledge of violation no defense.

a. It shall not constitute a defense to a complaint charging violation of section 12-20, that the parent, guardian or other person having the legal care and custody of a minor person who violates the provisions of section 12-19, did not have knowledge of the presence of said minor in and upon any street, alley, playground, public place, closed business, place of business, place of amusement, or other unsupervised place as prohibited in section 12-19.

Sec. 12-22. Business owners prohibited to allow minors to violate curfew hours on their premises.

a. It shall be unlawful for the owner/operator of any business establishment within the village, either by himself or by any employee or agent, to permit any such minor person to be, or remain in or about such business establishment in violation of section 12-19, unless the minor is employed and working at said business establishment during curfew hours.

Sec. 12-23. Duties of the police department.

a. It shall be the duty of each member of the village police department to enforce the provisions of this article, and each member of the police department is hereby authorized to question any person suspected of violating any of the provisions of this article and to take into custody and detain any minor person so found to be in violation of this article, and to further ascertain the name of the parent, guardian or other person having authorized custody, or the employer of the minor person.
b. Upon determination, such parent, guardian, or other person having authorized custody of the minor person may be notified or summoned by the investigating office or member of the village police department to appear at the police department to complete an investigation and assume custody of the minor person. If the parent, guardian or person having authorized custody of the minor cannot be located within a reasonable time, the officer shall notify the county juvenile authorities to cause the proper proceedings to be taken, as authorized by the laws of the state.

Sec. 12-24. Warning notice.

a. Whenever any minor person violates section 12-19, the police department shall endeavor to provide written or verbal notice of the violation and the requirements of this article to any parent, guardian, or other person having legal care or custody of such minor.

Sec. 12-25. Penalties.

a. Any person violating any provisions of this ordinance shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction. The penalty for the first offense shall be One Hundred ($100.00) Dollars. The penalty for the first subsequent offense would be Two Hundred Fifty ($250.00) Dollars. Repeat offense shall be defined as a violation of said ordinance which has been ticketed for within the previous thirty (30) days. For any subsequent repeat offense, the fine shall be no more than Five Hundred ($500.00) Dollars. It shall be the duty of the Village of Decatur Police Department to enforce the provisions of this ordinance ithin the corporate limits of the Village of Decatur. If, after investigation, an officer determines that a violation of the ordinance exists, the officer shall be authorized to issue a municipal civil infraction citation.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

YEAS: Beute, Jackson, Janssen, mead Jr., Pachner, Pelfrey, Elwaer
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

CERTIFICATION

As the duly appointed village clerk of the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, I certify this is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the Decatur Village Council at its metting of February 3, 2025

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk

Intrdouced: February 3, 2025
Adopted: February 3, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 8

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(01-23)(02-13)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: LESLIE TAPIA; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 2/13/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-001332; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on APRIL 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Leslie Tapia, a single person, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Better Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated January 16, 2024 and recorded January 23, 2024 in Liber 1761, Page 253 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by JPMMT HELOC Participation Trust, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty-One and 33/100 Dollars ($127,441.33).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on APRIL 17, 2025.

Said premises are located in the City of SOUTH HAVEN, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:

UNIT NO. 40, THE PRESERVE AT WOODLAND HARBOR CONDOMINIUM, A CONDOMINIUM ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN LIBER 1487, PAGE 235, INCLUSIVE AND AMENDMENTS THERETO, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS, AND DESIGNATED AS VAN BUREN COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 115, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE MASTER DEED AND AS DESCRIBED IN ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED.

720 Ravine Ln, South Haven, Michigan 49090

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: February 13, 2025
File No. 25-001332
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(02-13)(03-06)

Village of Lawton
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Fiscal Year 2025 / 2026 Budget

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws 15.261-15.275 and 141.411-141.415, that the VILLAGE OF LAWTON will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers at Village Hall, 125 S Main Street, Lawton, Michigan.

The purpose of this public hearing is to hear public comment on the proposed budget for Fiscal year 2025-2026. The property tax millage rate proposed to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. Citizens attending this hearing have the right to provide written and oral comments regarding the proposed budget. A copy of the entire proposed budget is available for public inspection after February 14, 2025 during regular business hours at Lawton Village Hall.

Written correspondence for the hearing may be addressed to: The Village of Lawton, PO Box 367, Lawton, MI 49065. This notice is given in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976. Special accommodations for persons with handicapping conditions who plan to attend the meeting will be provided if such persons will contact the Village of Lawton office at 269.624.6407 in advance of the meeting.

Dated: February 13, 2025

Brittany Rathbun
Lawton Village Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

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• AUCTION •

All Secure Self Storage will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 2/25/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Chris Beeman, 10; Terry Mayer, 94; Jennifer Strey, 315; Logan Hough, 335.

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SPORTS

Gobles sending seven to regional

Gobles wrestlers show off their district medals.

By John Raffel

GOBLES — Gobles coach Erin Carlin and his Tigers had seven wrestlers advance from districts on Saturday to the regional round this coming Saturday buy place fourth in the Lawton districts.

Danny Timms, Jose Boger, Devin Doorlag, Mason Mansfield, Colton Colingsworth, Brody Marshall, and Edgar Raseman all placed at the Individual District Championships in Lawton and will advance to the Regional Championships on Feb 15.

"Danny and Mason earned gold, while Devin and Edgar earned silver," Carlin said. "Mason and Devin have been near dominant all year, and the team has a lot of faith in them to do what they do every week. Danny is pushing through the ups and downs that many young wrestlers go through. Brody has become one of our most dependable wrestlers and any who take him lightly most often regret it. Edgar is growing as a wrestler. He is big and powerful and

now his wrestling skill is winning him matches.

"Colton Colingsworth and Jose Boger also punched their ticket to Regionals.

"It was a bittersweet week for the Tigers. Senior, Nick Graves, knowing he had one more match due to a foot injury, returned to the mat to give his Tigers a chance at team districts," Carlin said. " He was selfless and left it all on the mat. As such, he was unable to compete in the District Championships.

Also, Finn Carlin, arguably our best wrestler and team leader, battled two significant injuries all year put forth a remarkable season, but was forced to sit in the playoffs. It was a gut punch to him, the coaches, and the team but the risk became too great.

"Having said that, these Tigers have been sending the next man up all year and they tied their record set lastyear by sending seven to regionals. All but one are underclassmen. Also note, on his way to securing his Silver at Districts, Devin Doorlag notched his 100th win.

Having been with Devin since youth wrestling, it was a proud moment for me."

Colton is arguably our most improved wrestler this year. He has been dependable. Every week, he asks what weight the coaches want him to wrestle and he makes it. He has put together over 30 wins and works his tail off in the practice room. Jose Boger, a former State Placer, has had his ups and downs this year and it is good to see that he is trending up in the play-offs."

The regionals will be at Martin.

The Tigers' Regional Qualifiers will travel to Martin for the Regional Championships on Feb. 15.

Gobles is 32-5 overall.

South Haven girls beat Fennville

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's girls basketball teem beat Fennville on Friday 51-25.

Ly'Nique Cunningham had 22 points, six steals and three assists for South Haven. Molly Verseput had 10 points and three rebounds and two blocks. Da'Vyne Crowley had six point as did Charlotte Grybowski. Nevaeh Cooper had three points, five rebounds, two steals and two assists. Sofia Grieves had three points, five rebounds and Regan Hahn had three points and three rebounds. Gianna Fazzio had two points and Roxy Ryan had five rebounds.

On Feb. 5, South Haven lost to Saugatuck 44-36. Ly'Nique Cunningham had 18 points, five steals, three rebounds and two assists. Roxy Ryan had six points, four rebounds, two blocks and two assists. Charlotte Grzybowksi had six points. Grieve had two points and five rebounds. Coopered two points and five rebounds plus three steals. Hahn had two points and five rebounds.

South Haven was set to play at St. Joseph and at Saugatuck and be home with Bridgman this week.

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www.newhopefellowship.org
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Pastor Sean Reed
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www.pawpaw.church
Oline worship services on Facebook & YourTube

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Pastor Dan Phillips
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Consult Bulletin

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WEDNESDAY Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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TUESDAY • Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
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23680 Front Ave.
668-3263 • www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Rev. Jonathan Lam
SUNDAY MASS - 8AM & 11AM

••••

ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. Fr. Alan P. Jorgensen
668-3312 • www.stjohnbosco.com
SUNDAY Mass - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
SATURDAY 4 p.m.

LAWRENCE

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Pastor Doug Tipken
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lawrencemethodist-church.org
for information of online videos

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northpointgobles@gmail.com
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